

OPINION 1334

HARMINIUS FAIRMAIRE, 1851 (COLEOPTERA):
TYPE SPECIES DESIGNATED

RULING — (1) Under the plenary powers, all designations of type species hitherto made for the nominal genera *Harminius* Fairmaire, 1851, and *Pseudocorymbites* Fiori, 1898, are hereby set aside, and the nominal species *Athous spiniger* Candèze, 1860, is designated as type species of both genera.

(2) The generic name *Harminius* Fairmaire, 1851 (gender: masculine), type species by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Athous spiniger* Candèze, 1860, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2274.

(3) The specific name *spiniger* Candèze, 1860, as published in the binomen *Athous spiniger* (specific name of the type species of *Harminius* Fairmaire, 1851 and *Pseudocorymbites* Fiori, 1898) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2987.

(4) The generic name *Pseudocorymbites* Fiori, 1898 (a junior objective synonym of *Harminius* Fairmaire, 1851 by reason of the ruling given under the plenary powers in (1) above) is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2166.

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.)2264

An application for the use of the plenary powers to designate a type species for *Harminius* Fairmaire, 1851, was first received from Dr E. C. Becker (*Biosystematics Research Institute, Ottawa, Canada*) on 2 May 1978. After some correspondence a revised draft was sent to the printers on 9 October 1979 and published in *Bull. zool. Nom.*, vol. 37, pp. 49–50. Public notice of the possible use of the plenary powers was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the statutory serials, to seven general and seven specialist serials. No comment was received.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 13 June 1984 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month rule on Voting Paper (1984)34 for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 37, p. 50. At the close of the voting period on 13 September 1984 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes — sixteen (16) received in the following order: Melville, Holthuis, Mroczkowski, Cocks, Schuster, Savage, Heppell, Binder, Starobogatov, Sabrosky, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Hahn, Kraus, Brinck, Corliss

Negative Vote — none (0)

Alvarado, Bayer, Bernardi, Halvorsen and Ride were on leave of absence.

No votes were returned by Cogger, Dupuis, Lehtinen and Willink.

The following comments were returned by members of the Commission with their voting papers:

Holthuis: 'Would the indication of a neotype for *H. castaneus* not be simpler? What happens to that species anyway? Or is *H. castaneus* auct. considered a synonym of *H. spiniger*?' This comment was passed on to Dr Becker who pointed out that he was reluctant to select a specimen of *spiniger* (= *castaneus* auct.) because this species does not fit Fairmaire's description which described *H. castaneus* as an eucnemid, although subsequent authors classified it as an elaterid. Dr Becker further explained that he considered *H. castaneus* Fairmaire a *species dubia* and that *H. castaneus* auct. and *H. spiniger* would be impossible to synonymise due to the omission by most authors using '*castaneus*' to specify from where their specimens originated.

Dr Holthuis replied to these comments by pointing out the limitations in making *H. spiniger* the type of *Harminius*, as Fairmaire's description of this genus is also unlikely to fit that for the genus *Athous* for which Dr Becker wants to use it. It was further suggested that the Code should be followed and *Harminius* and *castaneus* used for the genus and species for which they were intended or else both considered *taxa dubia*.

Dr Holthuis also noted that by placing *H. castaneus* as a *species dubia* it remains a threat to later established names. Finally, it was suggested by Dr Holthuis that, as the type locality of *H. castaneus* Fairmaire is Sicily, authors who recognise two species of Italian *Harminius* auct. would use *H. castaneum* auct. for the Southern species (*H. spiniger*).

Dr Becker replied by stating that he did not know of any species from Sicily that would match Fairmaire's description of *H. castaneus*. However he was willing to designate a specimen of *H. spiniger* as neotype if the Commission demanded it, although he felt this would be inconsistent with Article 75d(4).

Dr Holthuis intimated that he did not want to force his ideas on Dr Becker and they were only meant as an easier solution to the problem. The present Opinion has therefore been prepared around the original proposals.

Mroczkowski: 'The generic name *Harminius* was described by Fairmaire one year earlier in November 1851 in *Rev. mag. zool. Paris*, (2), vol. 3, p. 527–528.' This has been incorporated into the present Opinion.

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Harminius Fairmaire, 1851 *Rev. mag. zool. Paris*, (2), vol. 3, p. 527–528.

Pseudocorymbites Fiori, 1898, *Atti. Soc. Nat. Modena*, (3), vol. 16, p. 162
spiniger, *Athous*, Candèze, 1860, *Mem. Soc. r. Sci. Liège*, vol. 15, p. 460–461.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (84)34 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that voting paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1334.

R. V. MELVILLE

Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

28 February 1985